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Oceans and the law of the sea

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 28 February 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the agreement signed by the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea, on 29 November 2001, I wish to transmit to you the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran as follows:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reaffirming its position on the legal status of the Caspian Sea as contained in General Assembly document A/52/913, dated 21 May 1998, declares that the Agreement signed on 29 November 2001 by the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the division of the Caspian Sea is in contravention of the existing legal instruments governing the legal status of the Caspian Sea, and therefore does not recognize the said Agreement as valid. Clearly, as long as the legal regime of the Caspian Sea is not complemented with the unanimous agreement of all coastal States, any decision taken in this regard is unacceptable and bears no legal basis.

I shall be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 97 and 98.

(*Signed*) Mohammad H. **Fadaifard**
Ambassador
Charge d'affaires a.i.

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